

NOTES ON THE CHEESEMAN HERBARIUM

Part 3. Exchange with Australian herbaria from before 1900 to 1923

JEANNE H. GOULDING

AUCKLAND INSTITUTE AND MUSEUM

Abstract. Exchanges between T. F. Cheeseman and Australian herbaria are traced through specimens in the Auckland Institute and Museum Herbarium (AK) and through letters to Cheeseman in the manuscript collection of the Auckland Institute and Museum Library.

History of exchange

It is probable that Cheeseman's exchange of plant specimens with Australian herbaria began at much the same time as that with American and European herbaria, that is, in the late 1870s (Goulding 1974, 1975). In 1876, as secretary of the Auckland Acclimatisation Society, Cheeseman took the opportunity of letting Australian Acclimatisation Societies know of his desire to exchange plants. As a result, F. M. Bailey, then keeper of the herbarium at Queensland Museum, wrote from Brisbane: "Mr Bernay one of the Vice Presidents of the Queensland Acclimatisation Society tells me you are anxious to exchange herbarium specimens with some one in Queensland" (Bailey to Cheeseman, 19 May 1876). In addition to the subsequent exchange with the main herbaria in Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales, early collections also came to Cheeseman at Auckland Museum via the Herbarium of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew — e.g. those of R. Brown and Tasmanian collections made by W. W. Spicer (Goulding 1975).

QUEENSLAND

Queensland Herbarium

Although not founded, officially, until 1880 (Holmgren and Keuken, 1974), the Queensland Herbarium, formerly Botanic Museum and Herbarium, Botanic Gardens, was being formed in 1876. At this time F. M. Bailey, signing himself "Keeper of Herbarium, Queensland Museum, Brisbane", wrote "on behalf of the Herbarium now in course of formation at the Queensland Museum" offering to exchange plant specimens with Cheeseman (Fig. 1).

Frederick Manson Bailey (1827-1915), born in Hackney, England, emigrated to South Australia in 1838 when his father, John Bailey, was appointed Government Botanist and curator of a proposed botanic garden at Adelaide (not the present Botanic Garden of Adelaide). The botanic garden was very soon abandoned by the Government and John Bailey and his sons went on to establish a nursery in Adelaide. In 1858, F. M. Bailey left the family business and came to New Zealand where he took up land in the Hutt Valley. He returned to Australia in 1861 and opened a seed store in Brisbane, "and in addition he collected botanical specimens for sale to British and foreign Botanical Museums and Herbaria"

Brisbane

May 19th 1876

Thos. F. Preeceman Esq. F.L.S.

Auckland N. Zealand

Dear Sir

Mr Barways one
of the Vice-Presidents of the Auckland
Acclimatisation Society, tells me
you are anxious to exchange herbarium
specimens with some one in
New Zealand

I shall be most happy to begin
an exchange on behalf of the
Herbarium now in course of
formation at the Queensland
Museum and will look up a
few specimens and forward
to start with But should you
prefer our books above another
of our large and varied flora

Fig. 1. Portion of letter from F. M. Bailey, 19 May 1876.

MUSEUM HERBARIUM.	
BRISBANE.	Order <i>Gramineae</i>
	Genus <i>Lersia</i>
	Species <i>hexandra Sw</i>
	Habitat <i>Swampy Creek</i>
	Collector <i>F. M. Bailey Oct 1875</i>
	Flora Australensis, vol. _____ page _____
F. M. BAILEY, C.M.R.S.T., &c., Keeper of Herbarium.	

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Lolabium
Caraca
Queensland, F. M. Bailey

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Figs. 2,3 Herbarium labels. 2. Label of Brisbane Museum Herbarium, Queensland, F. M. Bailey, October 1875 (12.5 x 8.5 cm). 3. Label, written by Cheeseman, on a Bailey specimen (10.2 x 4 cm).

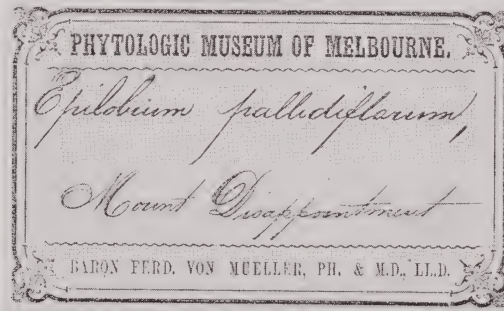


Fig. 4. Herbarium label ex Mueller: Phytologic Museum of Melbourne (13.5 x 8.5 cm).

(White, 1950). He was appointed, in 1875, to a Government board looking into the causes of disease of livestock and plants in Queensland and in 1880 was made Acting Curator of the Queensland Museum; in 1881 he was appointed Colonial Botanist, which title he held until his death in 1915 (White, 1950).

In his first letter to Cheeseman, May 1876, Bailey said he would like, in exchange for Australian specimens, "all you can send of the indigenous grasses." The grasses duly arrived in Brisbane the following July and Bailey forthwith asked for a packet of seed of any New Zealand grasses "having running stems" to introduce into Queensland (Bailey to Cheeseman, 2 September 1876). He subsequently sent species of Australian grasses to Cheeseman (Bailey to Cheeseman, 11 March 1877) and there are specimens in the Auckland Institute and Museum Herbarium complete with the old Brisbane Museum Herbarium labels (Fig. 2). However, there are many more, especially in Orchidaceae, of Bailey's collections labelled only in Cheeseman's hand (Fig. 3).

VICTORIA

National Herbarium of Victoria, Royal Botanic Gardens

Specimens from Ferdinand von Mueller from the Phytologic Museum of Melbourne (Fig. 4) constituted the first exchange between the present National Herbarium of Victoria and the Auckland Institute and Museum Herbarium.

Mueller, born in Germany in 1825, went to Australia in 1847 and became the first Government botanist of Victoria in 1853. He was appointed director of the botanical gardens at Melbourne in 1857, and supervised the building of what is now the National Herbarium of Victoria. When a curator was appointed to control the gardens in 1873 Mueller retained his position of Government botanist and continued in charge of the herbarium until his death in 1896.

From a letter to Cheeseman in 1882 it is apparent that Mueller was already receiving material from him. Mueller wrote, "It is very kind of you, dear Mr Cheeseman, to send me the fruit of *Persoonia Toru*. The specimens of drupes will answer my purpose very well." He also apologised for not "doing something in return for you" saying he had not had time to make up "any collections of spare specimens for a long time; but as gradually the accumulated and postponed work of my Department is cleared off, I shall also attend to the distribution of spare specimens of plants, and you shall not be forgotten." (Mueller to Cheeseman, 16 February 1882).

On Cheeseman's request, *Epilobium* species were sent to Auckland in 1895 and in his letter (Fig. 5) Mueller covered four foolscap pages in his large handwriting giving his views about *Epilobium* and *Coprosma* in Australia and New Zealand.

Several times Mueller asked Cheeseman for particular plants: "Zosteras in fruit or any other oceanic monocotyledonea" (Mueller to Cheeseman, 23 March 1888); *Alectryon excelsum* fruits and "authentic specimens of rarer kinds" of *Coprosma* (Mueller to Cheeseman, 8 August 1895). Seeds were also exchanged — Mueller offered eucalypts, "Can I send you seeds of rare Eucalypts from here or anything else? I could use seeds of your rarer *Pittosporums*." (Mueller to Cheeseman, 8 August 1896). As early as 1877 Mueller was sending Australian seeds to the Auckland Acclimatisation Society of which Cheeseman was then secretary (*Report of the Auckland Acclimatisation Society* 1877, p.13).

Collections ex Phytologic Museum of Melbourne were labelled by Mueller but often collected by others. Amongst the few specimens located in the Auckland Institute and Museum Herbarium are specimens of Perrot (Fig. 6), Spong, Mrs Wehl and Whan.

NEW SOUTH WALES

National Herbarium of New South Wales

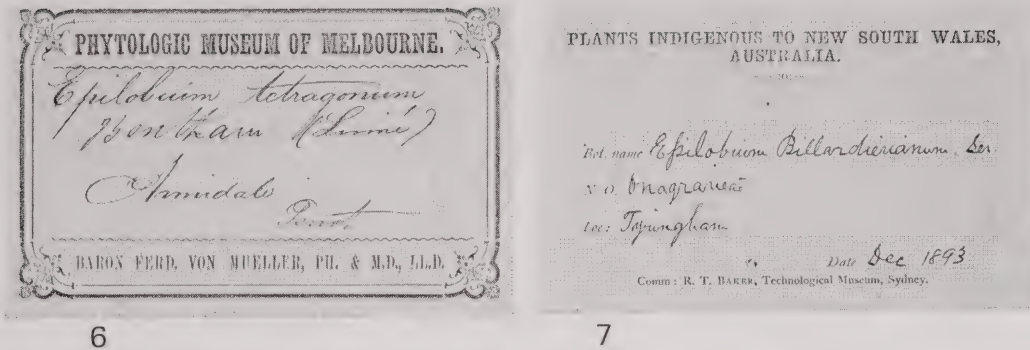
The National Herbarium of New South Wales was founded in 1896 when J. H. Maiden was appointed Government Botanist and Director of the Botanic Gardens, Sydney.

Joseph Henry Maiden (1859-1925) was born and educated in London and in 1880 sailed for New South Wales where he became Lecturer in Botany at the University of Sydney. In 1881 he was made first Curator of the Technological Museum of Sydney where he remained until 1896 when he moved to the newly-formed Sydney Botanic Gardens as Director, which position he retained until his

26/9/95

In accordance with
your wish, dear Mr. Cheeseman,
I send you some few
typical specimens of
Epilobium, as viewed by
Bentham. But as it is
now nearly 30 years, since
we ^{both} worked on the 3rd
vol. of the Fl. Austral., a
large lot of specimens
also of Epilobium has
accumulated, but my views
remain unaltered, that
for continental Australia

Fig. 5. Portion of letter from F. von Mueller, 26 September 1895.



Figs. 6.7 Herbarium labels. 6. Label ex Mueller: Perrot collector (13.5 x 8.5 cm).
7. Label of R. T. Baker, December 1893, Technological Museum, Sydney (11.5 x 7.7 cm).

retirement in 1924 (Cambage, 1926). Presumably Maiden started an herbarium at the Technological Museum before he founded the National Herbarium at the Botanic Gardens. The only Technological Museum label on specimens in the Cheeseman Herbarium came from R. T. Baker (Fig. 7), probably with Maiden material, because there appears to be no correspondence between Baker and Cheeseman.

The first letter from Maiden to Cheeseman contained a request for an exchange of mosses on behalf of the "officer-in-charge" of the moss herbarium at the Botanic Gardens (Maiden to Cheeseman, 25 January 1900). Attached to a letter from Maiden, 29 July 1901, was a list of desiderata — of Australian plants which he thought would be of interest to Cheeseman and he intended to use when sending specimens to Auckland. The first fifty were sent later that year (Maiden to Cheeseman, 19 November 1901). In June 1902 Maiden asked Cheeseman to send him *Ranunculus* species (Fig. 8); in 1903 he asked for "*Olea apetala*" and in 1906 arranged for specimens of *Haloragis* to be sent to Cheeseman. Later correspondence, from 1915 to 1921, concerned the exchange of publications, but in 1916 more dried plants were sent to Auckland Museum. Maiden advised Cheeseman that he had forwarded 150 species of Australian plants (Maiden to Cheeseman, 22 March 1916) and a further 15 species were sent later in the year (Maiden to Cheeseman, 26 May 1916).

On the specimens sent by Maiden, now incorporated in the Auckland Institute and Museum, there are at least three types of labels: "Herbarium, Botanic Gardens Sydney" (Fig. 9); "National Herbarium of New South Wales" (Fig. 10) and those of Maiden's "Western Australian Journeys", 1909 (Fig. 11). Some of the National Herbarium labels appear to have localities and dates in Maiden's hand, but his name, as collector, is written in another handwriting (Fig. 10).

Many of the specimens sent by Maiden were from other collectors, including T. H. Adams, W. H. Blakely, F. Brown, J. L. Boorman, J. H. Camfield, W. Dunn, Rev. J. W. Dwyer, A. Granter, M. Gunn, R. Helms, J. Heron, M. Koch, C. Lampshire, A. H. Lucas, J. C. McMarter, L. Rodway, J. Rumsey, Rev. H. M. Rupp, and E. H. T. Swain.

No. 9



BOTANIC GARDENS,

SYDNEY

30th June 1902

Dear Sir,
 As I am studying the genus
Ranunculus I shall be very grateful
 to you if you will kindly favour
 me with any named species &
 varieties you can spare, especially
 of the smaller kinds.

Yr sincere
 J. H. Maiden Esq.

J. F. Cheesman Esq. F.R.S.
 The Museum
 Auckland, N.Z.

Fig. 8. Letter from J. H. Maiden, 30 June 1902.

Herbarium, Botanic Gardens, Sydney.

Acacia
elata J. Maiden

Loc. Mount Tomah. Fruits

Coll. J. H. Maiden. 11-98.

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NATIONAL HERBARIUM OF NEW SOUTH WALES,
BOTANIC GARDENS, SYDNEY.

Loc. Kingella. N.S.W.

Coll. J. H. Maiden. Date 1/9/99.

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NATIONAL HERBARIUM OF NEW SOUTH WALES,
BOTANIC GARDENS, SYDNEY.

Western Australian Journeys of J. H. Maiden,
September–November, 1909.

Acacia extensa Link.

Date Nov. Locality Prongarup.

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Figs. 9-11. Herbarium labels. 9. Label of Herbarium of Botanic Gardens, Sydney, J. H. Maiden, November 1898 (13.2 x 7 cm). 10. Label of National Herbarium of New South Wales, J. H. Maiden, 10 September 1899 (13.2 x 7 cm). 11. Label of J. H. Maiden, Western Australian Journeys, September–November 1909 (14.5 x 7.2 cm).

Conclusion

The National Herbarium of Victoria (MEL) is the only Australian herbarium listed by Lanjouw and Stafleu (1954, p.124) as having Cheeseman collections, although as seen above there are also holdings of his specimens in Brisbane (BRI) and Sydney (NSW). Exchange with Sydney continued for many years after Cheeseman's time, until about 1962, but present-day exchange is mainly with Adelaide (AD).

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